

Attorney's Docket No. NC073-US1/5487-148  
Application Serial No. 10/656,431  
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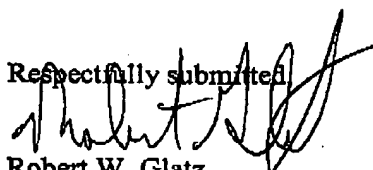
### REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 3 and 5-10 are allowed. Claims 13 and 15 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The claims have been amended above to place the case in a form indicated as allowable. In particular, Claim 13 has been amended to independent form incorporating the recitations previously found in Claim 12 and Claim 12 has been canceled. Claim 15 has been amended to depend from Claim 13. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from Claim 3. Claims 1-2 and 11 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant submits that all the claims are in form indicated as allowable and the rejections have been obviated. These amendments are made to expedite issuance of this case and do not indicate Applicant's agreement with the grounds for rejection or affect Applicant's right to file a continuation application to the canceled subject matter.

### Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment After Final as it merely places this case in a form indicated as allowable. Applicant further respectfully requests allowance of all the pending claims and passing this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted

  
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